

# The News-Scimitar

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## BRYAN A TARGET

For twenty years and longer William Jennings Bryan has been counted a pretty good American. All told he has received more votes for the presidency than any living man, and on at least one occasion received almost enough to elect him. Even now he predicts that the prospect for Democratic success is poor enough to select him to run again. If it should come to that we are certain there are still remaining many thousands of Democrats who would rejoice to "throw away" another vote for him.

Col. Bryan has suffered for lack of attention during the last year or so. Nothing is so galling to the statesman as neglect. If he cannot be praised he needs to be condemned. To be abandoned is slow torture and a lingering death.

But he isn't going to be neglected much longer. The papers are printing a story of an informal dinner the colonel gave a few evenings ago to some of the Democratic senators in Washington, at which time he expressed an interest in the ratification of the treaty of peace and the league of nations, and, seeing the hopelessness of the present situation, with his usual good sense, suggested that the antireservationists should make a compromise with the reservationists and get the matter behind them. For the campaign approaches, and Col. Bryan has a supernatural faculty for looking ahead.

Lloyd George and a few British-Americans are the only ones that have not conceded that it will be impossible to ratify the league of nations covenant without reservations. They, of course, we take it, will at once begin a campaign of vilification against Mr. Bryan. We shall shortly expect to see him caricatured as "Wilhelm Judas Bryan," and such other epithets as are common to those who dabble in mud. On the other hand, his attitude on this subject may cause some of his Irish friends to compliment him by calling him "Mr. O'Brien." We do not know what new ambition he may have up his sleeve at this time, but we are positive he is not getting ready to stand for parliament.

## LOWDEN AND THE SOUTH

The Hon. Frank O. Lowden, governor of Illinois and Arkansas planter, is one of the few men with thorough sympathy for this section of the country and a complete understanding of its problems to offer in recent years for the Republican nomination for president of the United States.

The South would be particularly fortunate to have such a man at the head of the government in the event there should be a Republican victory.

It is too early to make a plausible prediction concerning the prospective candidates of the two parties. The indications, as usual, are that the Democrats will go to the East and select a man from some doubtful state and rely upon the "solid South" to deliver, as usual. There is no reason to doubt that it will continue to do so.

The only danger confronting the national Democratic party, so far as the South is concerned, is that the Republicans may have the foresight to nominate a man of Gov. Lowden's type, who would be acceptable to the rank and file of his party in the East and West, and at the same time, because of his familiarity with Southern problems and sympathy with Southern people, succeed in breaking the "solid South."

There is no doubt that the Republicans have in Will Hays the most progressive and the most energetic leader that has been chairman of the national committee for many years. He declined the governorship of his state for this larger undertaking, and certainly he lacks nothing in the way of enterprise.

## MISSISSIPPI'S NEED

The Mississippi Society for Mental Hygiene is endeavoring to establish a school and colonize imbeciles and feeble-minded persons in the state. By doing this their crimes, immoralities and unwonted propagation would be prevented.

Mississippi is one of eight states making no provision for state training and custody of the feeble-minded.

There is no greater expense than the neglect of feeble-minded persons.

The feeble-minded are not insane, and they have no place with the insane in state hospitals.

These people do not work. They are able-bodied, and would work if trained in colony life.

They steal what others create; they burn for the joy of seeing fire; they infest poor farms because they have not the wit to make their own way; they have the instincts of adults and the mental power of children.

Mississippi should have a colony for the feeble-minded where they could work and be happy, and where they would not be a greater burden upon the state in ever increasing numbers.

A state training school for the feeble-minded is a humane plan and an economic institution for the state.

We hope to see the people of Mississippi get behind this movement which has been organized by W. H. Smith, Agricultural College, president, and Dr. I. H. Fox, Jackson, secretary and treasurer. The legislators of Mississippi should pledge themselves to the establishment of this institution.

## VICTOR BERGER

Congress will have to deal with Victor Berger again. He was once thrown out and sent home, and no doubt will be again. A man of Berger's sentiments has no place in the popular branch of congress, although he might pass muster in the senate. If he appears properly accredited he may be seated. To ignore the warrant of the governor of Wisconsin would be an affront to him and to all the people of Wisconsin, which is unnecessary. To seat him and afterward throw him out would be a proceeding against him individually.

Many years ago a representative was sent to congress from the South who was a young man and looked much younger than he was. When he appeared to be sworn in the speaker asked him if he was old enough to have a seat in the congress.

Rising to his full dignity the young representative replied: "Ask my constituents." He had the credentials, and it was up to congress to find reason for not admitting him to full fellowship. The people of the Milwaukee district will have no representation in congress until they choose someone who is not so un-American as to be obnoxious to that body. It is their own fault, and no one but themselves is to blame. It is a pity that other anti-Americans cannot be driven out of both houses. We are still at war with Germany technically, although actual fighting has been called off by the armistice, and none but Americans should be put on guard.

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## Bullet Cracks Store Show Window While Streets Are Crowded

While the Goldsmith's department store was thronged with Christmas shoppers passing on the street, a bullet crashed against a big plate glass window of the store Monday night between 7 and 8 o'clock. Apparently it was a spent bullet, for it failed to shatter the heavy glass. However, it did inflict a series of cracks in the glass which resembled a sunburst.

Police are at a loss to account for the firing of a pistol shot in the downtown district. The window which was struck is the second from Gayoso avenue on the Main street side.

## WOMEN WANT TO KNOW CONCERNING SUFFRAGE

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 23. (Sp.)—Frank Robinson, attorney-general-elect, who goes to office in January, has been requested by the suffrage organization in Mississippi to prepare an informal opinion as to what legislation, if any, will be needed to make the women's suffrage amendment effective in this state in the event of its ratification by the states.

Mr. Robinson is giving the matter thorough study and will no doubt express his views on the subject in the legislative session.

The attorney-general-elect believes, he said, that the mere adoption of the suffrage amendment does not automatically give the women the right to vote in Mississippi, any more than the fourth or fifteenth amendment gave all the negroes the right to vote.

However, it paves the way for them to go to court for their rights. The qualification is one for further consideration.

Some of the suffrage leaders who have consulted attorneys are of the opinion that all necessary restrictions and qualifications can be imposed by statute, and that an amendment to the state constitution will not be necessary.

JACKSON MOTORMEN GET INCREASED WAGE

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 23. (Sp.)—The hearts of the motormen employed by the Jackson Light & Traction Co. were made glad by the announcement today that their wages would be increased 25 per cent. The increase is practically 25 per cent. Last November an increase of 2 cents an hour was granted by the former management, who recognized the men were entitled to more, but found it impossible to do so on account of the chaotic conditions of the company's affairs.

The motormen are now working on an average of 11 hours per day.

AUTOISTS IN WILD RIDE ON MAIN ST.

With wild whoops, punctuated by pistol shots, first from one side of the car, then the other, a yellow touring car, north on Main street past Perkins, railway, yesterday, was given a life time in the penitentiary, but pardoned in the latter part of the Vardaman administration. He then established a locksmith and bicycle shop in Jackson. About three years ago he attempted to kill George Brannon, a local coaler. A watch in Brannon's pocket deflected the bullet and saved his life.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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